

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG, MBFR, DA
SUBJ: STRENGTHENED PRO-ER/RB STATEMENT BY DANISH GOVERNMENT

REF : COPENHAGEN 1501 (NOTAL)

1. YESTERDAY IN FOLKETING DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LISE
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OSTERGAARD (WHO IS CHARGED WITH DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS) MADE
A STATEMENT WHICH WE REGARD AS MORE FORTHCOMING ON THE ER/RB
WEAPON THAN WHAT HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN SAID PUBLICLY BY DANISH
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HER STATEMENT AROSE AS A SOMEWHAT PRO-
CEDURALLY COMPLICATED CARRY ON OF THE MARCH 2 FOLKETING DE-
BATE ON DISARMAMENT (REFTEL). MRS. OSTERGAARD WAS REPLYING TO
A SERIES OF QUESTIONS POSED BY COMMUNIST PARTY POLITICAL

SPOKESMAN IB NORLUND WHICH ENDED UP BY HIS ASKING WHETHER IT WAS POSSIBLE "TO MOVE THE GOVERNMENT TO UTTER ONE CONDEMNING WORD ABOUT THE NEUTRON BOMB?"

2. MRS. OSTERGAARD'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

"NO MEMBER OF THE DANISH FOLKETING CAN DOUBT THE EMPHASIS ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT ON DENTE AND DISARMAMENT. NEITHER OF THESE TWO AIMS, HOWEVER, IS ACHIEVED THROUGH ONE-SIDED DE-ESCALATION OF WESTERN DEFENSE, AS PROPOSED BY MR. NORLUND BY SELECTING THE NEUTRON WEAPON FOR ISOLATED DISCUSSION.

"WHEN THE WEST CONCERNS ITSELF AT ALL WITH A WEAPON SUCH AS THE NEUTRON BOMB, IT IS BECAUSE THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUES ITS ARMAMENTS. THIS ALSO CONCERNS THE NUCLEAR MISSILE SS-20, WHICH IS A NUCLEAR WEAPON WITH ALL THE WORST CHARACTERISTICS. FURTHERMORE, THE SS-20 IS AN AGGRESSIVE WEAPON, DIRECTED AGAINST WESTERN EUROPE, WHILE THE NEUTRON BOMB HAS A CLEARLY DEFENSIVE PURPOSE.

"BUT I SHALL NOT REFRAIN FROM CALLING ATTENTION TO THE FACT - WHICH MR. NORLUND AS MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE SHOULD BE WELL AWARE - THAT PARTICULARLY DENMARK, EARLY ON, CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE VERY POSSIBILITY THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB MIGHT BE PUT INTO PRODUCTION IS ITSELF A MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE PART OF THE SALT AND THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"IT IS DECISIVE FOR THE GOVERNMENT O PURSUE A POLICY WHICH PREVENTS THESE GHASTLY ARMS FROM EVER BEING USED, AND THIS IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH CONTROLLED AND RECIPROCALLY BALANCED DISARMAMENTS EFFORTS."

3. MRS. OSTERGAARD REPLIED TO TWO MORE QUESTIONS OF INTEREST CONCERNING THE EW/RB WEAPON. THE FIRST WAS ON THE SITUATION IN THE NETHERLANDS. IN RESPONSE TO NORLUND'S ASSERTION THAT THE DUTCH IN EFFECT HAVE TAKEN A POSITION OPPOSING THE PRODUCTION OF THE EW/RB WEAPON, MRS. OSTERGAARD REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF THE UPPER CHAMBER CONSIDERS THE NEUTRON BOMB AS "UNDESIRABLE" IT HAS NOT INSTRUCTED THE GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT A "NEGATIVE ATTITUDE" ON THIS WEAPON IN THE NATO CONTEXT. "THE POSITION OF THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT NOW AS BEFORE IS THAT IT BELIEVES THAT THE NEUTRON WEAPON SHOULD BE PART OF DISARMEMENT DISCUSSIONS - I.E. AN ATTITUDE QUITE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT."

4. FINALLY MRS. OSTERGAARD, IN ADDRESSING NORLUND'S REMARKS ON DEPLOYMENT, SAID THAT SHE WISHED TO "REMIND HIM OF THE WELL-KNOWN DANISH NUCLEAR POLICY WHICH MEANS

THAT NEITHER THIS SPECIAL NOR ANY OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPON CAN BE
PLACED IN DENMARK."

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MRS. OSTERGAARD DESCRIBED THE SS-20
IN THE MARCH 2 DEBATE AS A WEAPON EQUALLY "AS HORRIBLE"
AS THE NEUTRON BOMB SHE DID NOT THEN DESCRIBE THE SS-20
AS AN "AGRESSIVE WEAPON" IN CONTRAST WITH THE "CLEARLY
DEFNSIVE PURPOSE" OF THE EW/RB WEAPON.
DEAN

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